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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/839,407	DU GROSRIEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia Chevalier	1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/13/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26 and 27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The base claim is: 26.

The present claims are deemed allowable over the references of record since the references of record fail to disclose or render obvious an absorbent paper product comprising at least two superposed plies with edges, a peripheral zone along the edges and a central zone, the plies a joined together by marking patterns, composed of compacted zones on one side of the plies without corresponding salients on an opposite side of the plies, without glue at least along a segment of the peripheral zone. Furthermore, at least one of the two superposed plies has an embossing pattern in the central zone, wherein the at least two plies have a thickness along the peripheral zone which is less than the thickness along the at least two plies in the central zone and wherein in said peripheral zone, at least one of the at least two plies has marking patterns at least partly the same as the embossing patterns.

While Wandel (U.S. Patent No. 2,020,668) discloses an absorbent paper product (*paper towel, col. 1, line 4*) comprising at least two superposed plies (*two sheets, col. 2, lines 45-46*) with edges (*col. 2, line 52 through col. 3, line 5 and figures 1 and 3*), a peripheral zone along said edges (*band and hem, col. 2, line 55*), and a central zone enclosed by said peripheral zone (*central portion bounded by band, col. 2, line 52 and figure 1*). The plies are joined together by marking patterns (*band*) at compacted zones on one side of the plies without corresponding salients on an opposite side of the plies without glue at least along a segment of the peripheral zone (*col. 3, lines 5-14*). Furthermore, the at least two plies have a thickness along the peripheral

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zone which is less than the thickness along the peripheral zone which is less than the thickness of the at least two plies in the central zone (*figure 2*).

Wandel fails to disclose or render obvious at least one of the two superposed plies has an embossing pattern in the central zone and wherein in said peripheral zone, at least one of the at least two plies has marking patterns at least partly the same as the embossing patterns.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Chevalier whose telephone number is (571) 272-1490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alicia Chevalier
5/26/05